

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Todd Moore on 3-14-2008.
2. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claim 13, line 3, "upper" has been changed to --outer--.
 - Claim 22, line 2, "outer" has been added before --cover-- and in line 4, "outer" has been added before --cover--.
 - Claim 24, line 2, "outer" has been added before --cover-- (first occurrence) and in line 3, "outer" has been added before --cover--.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest cited art—Prater—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the filter element including a cover having an impervious portion adjacent the filter top end and a pervious portion adjacent the filter bottom end and including a housing outer cover having an upper portion with a smaller continuous diameter than a bottom portion having a larger continuous diameter and forming first and second predetermined volumes between the outer cover portions

and the filter element—in combination with all the other elements or steps in the apparatus of claim 1 or the method of claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Terry K. Cecil whose telephone number is (571) 272-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a-4:30p M-F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Dave Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mr. Terry K. Cecil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

TKC